

CARVER BIRTHPLACE
ASSOCIATION



SPECIAL POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- 2015 Commemorative Dinner
- New CBA Board Chair

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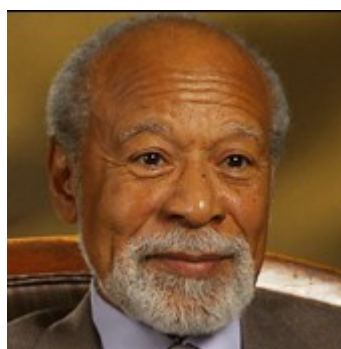
CARVER CONNECTION

WINTER 2015

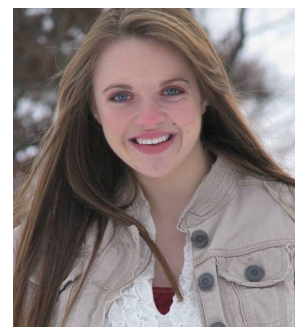
2015 Carver Commemorative Dinner

Saturday, January 3, 2015

“Guest Speakers”



Dr. Luther Williams
CBA Board Chair



Ms. Ashley Burns
2014 GWC Scholarship Recipient

Crowder College, Neosho Campus
Arnold Farber Building

Doors will open at 5:30 pm
Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm
\$15 per person

RSVP by December 30th

*** 417 325-4151 * cba.volunteers@gmail.com**

All Donations and “Silent Auction” items are tax deductible.

Superintendent's Update

By James Heaney, Superintendent
George Washington Carver National Monument



Dear Friends,

As the final days of 2014 wind down, I just wanted to take some time to look back on a highly successful year at George Washington Carver National Monument. There were many accomplishments, but just to highlight a few:

Park visitation topped 40,000, with an increase of over 25% compared to 2013, thanks to the excellent promotion by the park and CBA, compelling new and old programming from the ranger staff, and overall nice weather! We had very impressive visitation for Carver Day and Prairie Day at 1,475 and 1,750 visitors respectively.

2014 marked the completion of several important studies, including a Historic Resource Study focusing on Carver's early years. *He Shall Direct Thy Paths* by Jason H. Gart is available for download on our park website at: <http://www.nps.gov/gwca/parkmgmt/index.htm>.

We also have a completed Administrative History of the park! *Walking in Credence* by Diane L. Krahe and Theodore Catton documents the creation and development of Carver National Monument right up to the present. This book is also available on the park's website.

There are two other documents drafted this year which will play crucial roles in park development for the future. "Heritage Tourism at George Washington Carver National Monument" is a study completed by the University of Idaho, and it includes information gathered from groups of underrepresented populations on recreational trends and cultural preferences. This study will help the park in engaging diverse communities.

The other document, a Cultural Landscape Report, details the historical use of the land as well as its development as a park, and forges a strategy for furthering developing the park landscape for enhanced recreational and interpretive use. The CLR includes input from stakeholders and interested parties that attended scoping sessions at the park earlier in 2014. This public input helped shape a vision of the park for the 21st Century.

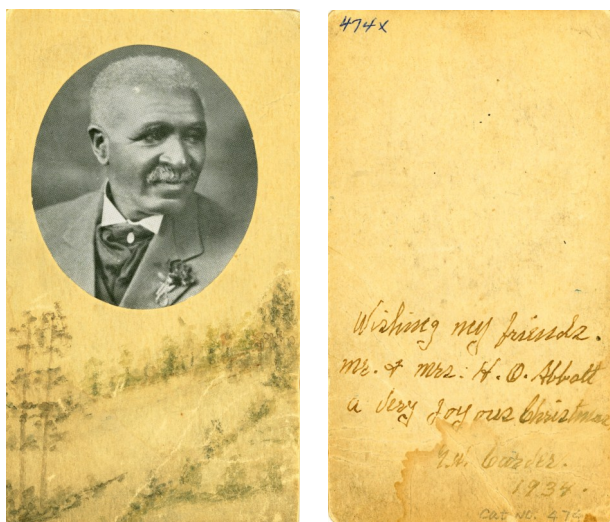
The park's new film *Struggle and Triumph: The Legacy of George Washington Carver* premiered in July to enthusiastic reviews at the park, and in several locations throughout the country, including Tuskegee University. The movie will be available for purchase in 2015.

Park volunteer Ashley Burns received the national George and Helen Hartzog award for Youth Volunteerism, and was honored in Washington, DC. The Gateway Alternative School in Joplin received the Youth Group Volunteers Hartzog award for the Midwest Region. We are thrilled to see our vibrant volunteer program receive this prestigious recognition!

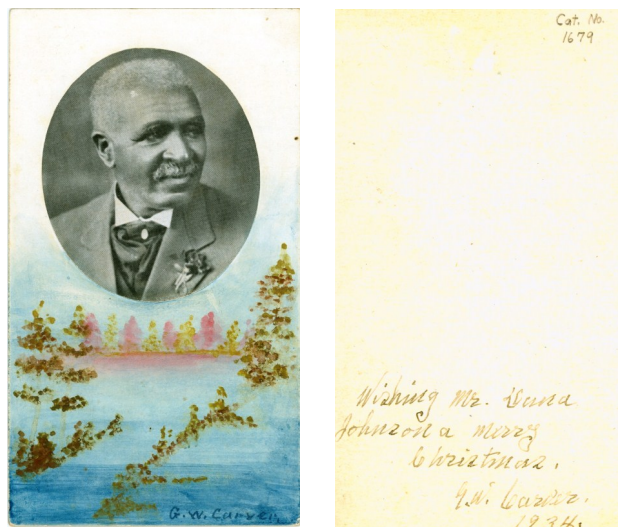
These are merely a few of the successes for the park in 2014, and of course, your membership and donations to the Carver Birthplace Association helped to make them possible. This holiday season we are grateful for the support that you have given us over so many years, and we hope to see you and your family and friends at the park in 2015. Wishing you and yours all the best during this holiday season and in the New Year,

George Washington Carver's Holiday Cards

George Washington Carver often made hand-painted Christmas cards for friends and colleagues. George Washington Carver National Monument is fortunate to have three original cards in the museum collection to display for visitors.



This card was to Mr. & Mrs. Harry O. Abbott. Mr. Abbott was Carver's traveling secretary and good friends. The back of the card reads: **Wishing my friends Mr. & Mrs. Harry O. Abbott a very joyous Christmas. G.W. Carver 1934**



Another card to Dana Johnson. Carver often referred to Dana and his brother, Cecil as "my boys." The back of the card reads: **Wishing Mr. Dana Johnson a Merry Christmas. G.W. Carver 1934**

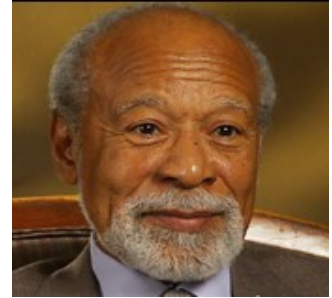


Dana Johnson met Carver in 1930 and remained good friends. Carver encouraged Dana to pursue a career in art.

The back of the card reads: **See this coloring comes from clay. G. W. Carver 12-22-1932 A Merry Christmas to "Dana"**

2015 Carver Birthplace Association Chairman

Dr. Luther S. Williams, Distinguished Professor and Provost/
Executive Vice President Emeritus, Tuskegee University



“The Next Phase in a Lifetime Interest”

The actions of the Carver Birthplace Association (CBA) Board in electing me as chair at the November, 2014 Annual Meeting represented a much valued next phase in the long expanse of my connections to the life and legacy of Dr. Carver.

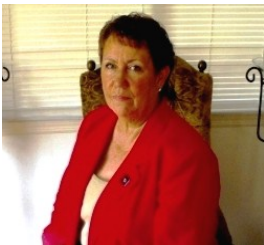
This long journey commenced during my early childhood residence in rural Hale County, Alabama; a place geographically removed from Macon County (the site of Tuskegee University) by three counties. My initial acquaintance with Dr. Carver was owing to substantive references by my elementary school teachers to his life and work as a notable African American and the use of “Carver recipes” for food preparation and preservation, as derived from his many “bulletins”, by my grandmother. Years later, my knowledge of Dr. Carver was considerably augmented as a student at the Tuskegee University (formerly Tuskegee Institute) for the freshman year; an experience that was rendered more substantive by my employment at the university during the most recent phase of my professional career. In the period between my initial and last Tuskegee centric experiences, I had the opportunity to engage and contribute to several Carver venues and undertakings, the most significant of the aforementioned include: a) prior service as a CBA board member; b) substantive participation with the staff of the Field Museum (Chicago, Illinois) in the design and inauguration of the George Washington Carver Exhibition, a traveling exhibit that was shown in multiple sites over a several- year duration; c) as Tuskegee University chief academic officer, providing the leadership for design, construction and development of the Carver Center for sustainability, and the establishment of the Integrative Biosciences PhD degree program themed on aspects of Dr. Carver’s legacy ;and d) a lead role in the resource development for and the design and implementation of the Missouri Botanical Garden’s George Washington Carver Garden, an inspirational garden inclusive of a life-size bronze statue of Dr. Carver, a reflection pool, and exploratory garden for K-12 science instructions, which represents the first and only of its kind at a botanical garden in the USA.

My involvement with aforementioned undertakings and numerous of lectures/presentations given throughout the years, in the aggregate, served to broadened my perspective on Dr. Carver, especially in the context of his critically important work at Tuskegee University, a place where he did research, taught, conducted novel agricultural outreach programs ,extension services, and witnessed the power of a profound and larger reality that he was convinced was operative throughout his life. Nonetheless, his creative genius and sustained brilliance should not obscure the daunting challenges that Dr. Carver confronted; for his most productive work was accomplished during: i) an era characterized as decidedly unsupportive ,in the generic; ii) the existence of local communities in which his agricultural extension service had its placement that operated stringently counter instance to freedom; and c) even a national legal and quasi-legal policy environment that was, as an understatement , the obverse of enabling. Yet, Dr. Carver was one who truly believed in and practiced the totality of humanity; strongly cared about the conservation and sustainability of the planet; and, without rejoicing or bitterness, was the gold standard as regards not permitting racial and/or other such sociopolitical constructs to serve as barriers to excellence, fairness and equality.

Dr. Williams cont'

Thus, while I deem it important to view the existing and future activities of the CBA, conducted in collaboration with the National Monument, in the context of some elements of the aforementioned, I posit that the CBA has an opportunity to continue to make a comparatively rare contribution. Specifically, as one of its priority undertakings, I suggest that the CBA employ the development, interpretation and broad dissemination of the 1872 Neosho Colored Schoolhouse (the first school attended by Dr. Carver) as an instrument to convey Dr. Carver's initial educational experiences and substantively employ it as a productive vehicle to inspire extant and future learners. More importantly, by this undertaking, possibly answer the following question: by what determined spirit and implacable resiliency did he pursue his initial educational experience, an effort, viewed through contemporary lens, would seem too daunting to indulge in trying to imagine fully! Beyond the explication of a better understanding of the aforesaid question, through the attendant interpretative programming of the school, it should be possible to strongly convey the message that an extraordinarily creative and brilliantly engaged career need not limit one's sense of decency and profound understanding of the imperative of effectively conjoining ethical and technical reasoning in a powerful and unfailing faith that holds all inquiry and action accountable!

Respectfully Submitted,



Ann McCormick
Executive Director

*"Education is the
key to unlock the
golden door of
freedom."*

G. W. Carver

CBA Is Funded By
Donations
Memberships
Book Store Sales
Awarded Grants

Greetings Friends,

In retrospect, it has been a very busy and rewarding year, for CBA and our Park partners.

The 1872 Neosho Schoolhouse fund raising prospectus has been completed. Copies are available in my office at George Washington Carver National Monument. The legacy of George Washington Carver continues to play an important role in many lives. CBA is in the process of contacting all George Washington Carver schools in the United States, with the intent of establishing a partnership to promote the Life & Legacy of Dr. Carver, the Schoolhouse, and George Washington Carver National Monument.

Bookstore Report

Despite the two week shutdown we experienced in October 2013, and the days we were closed due to bad weather, the Bookstore exceeded sales projections for FY 2014. We have restocked many items previously sold, and deleted some that were not selling. Value conscious customers tell us how pleased they are with our quality, and our effort to keep our prices reasonable. That is very important when you are dealing with school groups from diverse, social and economic backgrounds.

I encourage you to shop our Bookstore/Gift Shop during the holidays. You may also, shop online at www.carverbirthplaceassoc.org. Your purchases will support CBA and the programs at George Washington Carver National Monument. If you would like to know more about helping the Monument through CBA, please call or email me.
417 325-4151 Ext 276 or cba.volunteers@gmail.com

Volunteers In Parks Program Expanding for the Centennial



The National Park Service (NPS) is gearing up to celebrate its 100th anniversary! Did you enjoy your last visit to George Washington Carver National Monument or to any of the other 400 national parks? The Organic Act of 1916 says national parks will “. . . *conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide **for the enjoyment** . . . of future generations*”. Park staff, Carver Birthplace Association members, and volunteers work together each day to ensure this purpose and goal.

To celebrate the NPS Centennial, the Volunteers In Parks (VIPs) program will be working to engage the next generation of park advocates. The park will host a variety of events and programs geared to youth including badge days for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, multi-year programming for the students of Granby Elementary School, service-learning opportunities for students from local colleges and universities, revamped Junior Ranger days during the summertime, and invitations for youth to participate in special days such as National Public Lands Day, Make a Difference Day, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service.

The ambitious goal of greatly expanding the number of VIPs is possible only if others volunteer to participate. Will you please consider how you may help? Your talent, enthusiasm, and experience are needed! Contact any one of the park rangers for further information. Call the park at 417-325-4151 or email the rangers at gwca_interpretation@nps.gov. Thank you, Carver Birthplace Association members, for helping future generations learn about the hundredth birthday of the National Park Service!

Ranger Diane Eilenstein

“Winter Happenings At George Washington Carver National Monument”

Although wintertime in the four states can be frightful, there will be plenty of delightful happenings at George Washington Carver National Monument over the coming months. We have a variety of lectures, movies, and special programs scheduled for the enjoyment of our visitors. The park is offering a special program every weekend, so there is always something new to do!

Featuring live raptors, the presenters will explain some of the adaptations that help these birds to survive, as well as the importance of raptors to the natural world.

At 1:00 p.m. on both February 14th and 15th the park will be showing the film *AGAINST THE ODDS: THE ARTISTS OF THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE*. *This 60-minute documentary features more than 130 rarely seen paintings, prints, photographs, and sculptures by black artists, along with rich archival footage of those artists at work.*

At 11:00 a.m. on March 14th and 15th the park will be offering one of it's most popular programs: *CARVER LABORATORY DEMONSTRATIONS*. *Want to learn about some of the products George Washington Carver developed in his laboratory? Discover how Carver used some often overlooked plants to change the way we think about agriculture.*

Finally, the park will once again be hosting its *Coffee with Carver* series. Ages 18 and up are encouraged to join us at 10:00 a.m. on the January 15, February 19th, and March 19th for free coffee and a spirited discussion of various aspects of Carver's life and work.

The descriptions above are just a sample of some of our upcoming events. All programs are free of charge, and additional information can be found on the park's website at www.nps.gov/gwca or by picking up a free copy of the park's Calendar of Activities inside the park's Visitor Center.

Ranger Doug Bazar

2015 Carver Commemorative Dinner

No one knows the exact date of George Washington Carver's Birth
The Carver Birthplace Association therefore remembers the date of his death
January 5th, 1943 to recognize all he has done for mankind.

MENU

Grilled Chicken Breast
Honey Glazed Ham
Duchess Potatoes
Country Style Green Beans
Cobb Salad
New York Cheese Cake or Fruit Cobbler
Tea, Coffee, etc.

*The 2013 Carver Commemorative Dinner will be catered by Great Western Dining Service, Neosho, MO

Carver Birthplace Association is collecting Silent Auction Items and Monetary Donations
Proceeds will be used for the *Annual George Washington Carver Scholarship Program*
All Donations are Tax Deductible

To Donate: Call 417 325-4151 Ext. 276 or email cba.volunteers@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yearly Membership is Due January 1, 2015

Please Select One:

- ☐ Student (\$15.00)
☐ Senior Adult: Age 62+ (\$15.00)
☐ Individual (\$35.00)
☐ Family: In Same Household (\$65.00)

Method of Payment

- ☐ Check
☐ Visa
☐ MasterCard
☐ American Express

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Credit Card # _____

Exp. date _____

Signature _____

Carver Birthplace Association

Phone: 417 325-4151 Ext. 276

Fax: 417 325-4231

E-mail: cba.volunteers@gmail.com

2015 CBA Board of Directors

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Carver Birthplace Association

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Diamond, MO 64840**

Phone: 417-325-4151

Fax: 417 325-4231

cba.volunteers@gmail.com

<http://www.carverbirthplaceassoc.org>

CBA Mission Statement

To promote the Legacy of Dr. George Washington Carver and support the Historical, Scientific, Educational, and Interpretive Activities of the National Park Service at the George Washington Carver National Monument.

For more Information contact the Park at 417 325-4151 or visit

www.nps.gov/gwca

The Park is located 2 miles West of Diamond, Missouri on Hwy V, then 1/2 mile south on Carver Road.